

SECRET

OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

FIELD HQ. FILE NO. JZX-7576

X-2, Italy

*File
The word was
conspicuous
for my sym-
phony file
Hanks*

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE:	PERIOD COVERED:	MADE BY:
Rome	4 April 1946	16-25 Jan 1946	JK23/1

SUBJECT:	STATUS:
Clandestine Traffic of Jews and Arms from Italy to Palestine	Closed

SOURCE: JK23/1

REFERENCE: JZX-6534 of 14 March; JZX-5865 of 20 January

COMMENT:

1. Further to JZX-5865, attached is a compilation of recent Italian CS reports on Subject. Sections A - C are dated 25 January; Section D, 21 January; Section E, 19 January; Section F, 16 January.

2. For your information and comment.

EVALUATION: Reliable

DISTRIBUTION: (9 copies)

OFFICER IN CHARGE:

Washington (2)
London
Paris
Vienna
SCI/Z/Milan
SCI/Z/Genoa
Files (2)

BB8

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

ms

SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Clandestine Traffic of Jews and Arms from Italy to Palestine

The following are reports received from various 808 CS Centers in Italy:

A. CS Center at Udine:

1. It has been ascertained that about 460 Jews are interned in the refugee camp at Udine. They arrived in three groups, one of which numbered 400 Jews. Most of them are Polish Jews who, according to their statements, come from Germany.

2. It has been possible to establish, however, that most of them come from Bulgaria and Greece. They had traveled through Yugoslavia and Austria. Upon reaching Yugoslavia, the authorities there took from the refugees the counterfeited Greek passports found in their possession.

3. The 460 Jews mentioned above are being transferred to the refugee camp at Padua by the Allied authorities. Allied officials are also making inquiries about two refugee camps located in Austria, as they believe that an organization for the expatriation of Jews is operating there.

B. CS Center at Rome:

4. Further investigation has disclosed the following:

Enrico LEVI, skipper. After his short stay in Rome (2-3 November 1945) it is believed he did not return to Rome. Besides his Padua address (No. 5, Via San Martino e Soferino), LEVI's address at Bari is p/o Dr. Carlo MANARA, No. 31, Corso Savour. Dr. MANARA is a shipping agent.

5. LEVI is known as the skipper of the fishing motor vessel "Dalia", fitted in July 1945 at the MONOPOLI dockyards. The original name of the vessel was "Sirius". The MONOPOLI dockyards are owned by Dr. Alberto DORMIO, living at No. 14, Via Nunzio Sforza, Monopoli.

6. The "Dalia" has the following characteristics:

Length: 16.62 m.; 1 bridge; 2 masts; Diesel engine; 1 propeller; Speed: 8 knots; gross tonnage: 22.82 tons; net tonnage: 10.55 tons; 68 HP engine. Registered at Bari. Number of Register 764, dated 18 August 1945. The "Dalia" was launched on 2 August 1945.

SECRET

S E C R E T

7. As is known, owner of the "Dalia" is Giorgio NISSIM fu Achille and Clelia CARFASI, born 24 March 1908 at Pisa. The contract for the building of the "Dalia" was made through the Notary, DE VITO PINTO, living at No. 22, Via Montenegro, Bari.

8. Nothing has been heard about NISSIM since he left the hospital at Pisa. He might be found at his house at Milan, Via Patrella No. 22.

9. Enrico LEVI is in cordial relationship with Atty. Settimio SORANI, di Giustino and Elisa SORANI, born 9 December 1899 at Rome, living at No. 6, Lungotevere Ripa, 2nd floor, Rome.

10. Atty. SORANI is a Jew. He is a former employee at the INA (Istituto Nazionale Assicurazioni). At present he is working at the "Ufficio Palestinese Centrale per l'Italia", with headquarters at No. 3, Via Catalana, Rome.

11. Atty. SORANI is a friend of Atty. VALOERA of Genoa, who, it is reported, was head of the committee entrusted with the assistance of Jews resident in Genoa during the Nazi-Fascist occupation.

12. Leone FIIRST is also a Jew. He is employed by the Rome UNRRA. He is in charge of the distribution of foodstuffs and clothing. It is quite likely that FIIRST is a member of the clandestine organization, especially if one takes into account the fact that most of the persons apprehended on board vessels leaving Italian ports have admitted being on the UNRRA staff.

13. It is more than likely therefore, that LEVI, NISSIM, SORANI, FIIRST and VALOERA are working together. Their activities might be covered by SORANI'S official position. It is quite possible that both for religious and lucrative purposes, they are interested in sending Jews and arms to Palestine from collecting centers in ARABIA.

14. With a view to completing investigations, it is suggested that the following steps be taken:

(a) All letters, telegrams and telephone communications of the persons in question be submitted to strict control.

(b) Request the PADUA sub-center to ask the proper authorities that all correspondence addressed to or received by LEVI'S wife, Cicla TREMDER, living at PADUA, be censored.

(c) Request the GENOA center to control the activities of Atty. VALOERA, and investigate on his past;

SECRET

(d) Request the Milan Center to Control the activities of NISSIM;

(e) Request the Allied authorities to control FIIRST's activities within the UNRRA.

15. The proposals made by the Rome CS Center, in connection with the actions of the personnel of the CS Centers interested, have been taken into consideration.

16. It is left to your office to decide whether it would be advisable to control the activities of FIIRST.

C. CS Center at Bari:

17. Reliable sources report that Jews are still leaving for Palestine from Italian ports, and from Apulia in particular.

18. This traffic of Jews is abetted by Jews from all countries, and it is carried out for two reasons: Firstly, to support the formation of a Jewish State; secondly, to speculate on the anti-British propaganda.

19. The presence of so many foreigners in Apulia, where they have created a most chaotic situation, the presence of numerous Jews; the geographical position of Apulia, are all factors which support the belief that the traffic of Jews and arms to Palestine continues.

20. However, the coercive measures taken especially against the owners of ships (at least in Apulia), have undoubtedly checked considerably the clandestine activities of Italian ship owners. It is reported that, as a result of this, many vessels have been hired in Yugoslavia, Albania, and Greece, and sent to Italian ports for the transport of Jews. Naturally, the embarkation of the Jews has been carried out with great caution. Many vessels, for instance, have been anchored well away from the ports, and the Jews have been taken to the ships by small craft.

21. It is quite likely, however, that a few ships owners, lured by the high profit, might embark Jews nevertheless. It is therefore suggested that a strict surveillance be exerted at sea, in the neighborhood of Italian ports. This suggestion was made to the Commandant of the Bari 38th FSS, but although he found the suggestion sound, he could not do anything for lack of suitable means. It was then advised that the "Nettuno" and "Dalia" be used for this purpose, and he has asked for the necessary authorization from the 3rd District officials.

- 3 -
SECRET

SECRET

D. CS Center at Milan:

22. The passage of Jews has been for some time the object of close investigation.

23. Reliable informers report that for the last few months the passage of Jews through Milan railroad station has been noticed. Most of them come from the Balkans or other countries in eastern Europe. They travel with permits issued by the Allies, which authorize them to embark either at Brindisi, Bari, or Naples for Palestine.

24. Most of the Jews arriving at Milan report to the Jewish Welfare Commission, with headquarters at No. 5, Via Unione. Some of the refugees, however, call at the Assistance Center for Jews, located at No. 3, Piazza Duse.

25. An estimate of the number of Jews passing through Milan was made by counting the Jews who seek assistance from the opposite centers created by the UNRRA and JOINT. Thus, it was possible to establish that until December 1945 an average of from 50 to 100 Jews applied for aid. They were all of the poorest class.

26. The refugees receive clothes (old or new) or material. Those completely lacking financial means, are given 500 lire per week per head. Very often the clothing issued to the Jews is immediately sold by them in the very offices of the Jewish Welfare Commission.

27. According to statements made by some Jews, three agricultural centers for the training of Jews who are earmarked for settling in Palestine, have been established at Magenta (Milan), in Tuscany, and between Parma and Fidenza.

28. Most of these Jews are Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Rumanians, and Poles. The Yugoslavs are cheeky and sure of themselves (as are all Yugoslavs at present at Milan), while all the others are humble, especially those coming from Galicia, who show signs of the physical and moral ill treatment they have undergone.

29. Many Jews (especially of German and Austrian origin), came to Italy as far back as 1936-1938. Upon being liberated from the internment camps in southern Italy, they have returned to Milan, hoping to find work. Their children frequent a Jewish school located at No. 6, Via Eupili. Yugoslav refugees openly admit being afraid of returning to their country on account of TITO's regime.

- 4 -
SECRET

S E C R E T

30. The majority of refugees are from Galicia. One of them reported on the tragic conditions of the population at Lemberg under the Russians. All Poles are being compelled to leave those parts of Poland that are no longer Polish, while Jews are simply "advised" to emigrate. Six hundred of these refugees arrived at Milan from Lemberg passing through Budapest and Innsbruck. One of them stated that they wish to go to Palestine, as they consider it a duty for all Jews to go back to the land of their ancestors. The same refugee said that all Jews from Galizia are passing through Italy on their way to Palestine. This statement is confirmed by the constant passage of Jews through Milan central railroad station. However, while the average number of Jews passing through Milan in December 1946 was 20-30 per day, the number was somewhat reduced in January 1946.

31. Jews who have lived for some time in Italy frankly admit that they plan to find some work here until they might secure from some influential relation or some Jewish Committee the necessary "affidavit" to emigrate to the U.S. The same intentions are manifested by Yugoslav elements, who are endeavoring to mix with the Yugoslav-Aryan colony at Milan and make all the money they can, so as to pass from the "Schnorrers" class (the destitute Jew) to the category of successful men.

32. The meeting place of these Yugoslavs (as of all the Yugoslavs in general) is the Biffi cafe in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. The black market is practically entirely in their hands. Business is particularly active between 1100 and 1230, and 1500 and 1800 hours. These hours coincide with the arrival at Milan of MTOUSA motor trucks from Switzerland. Jews wearing the Yugoslav uniform can easily be taken for American soldiers.

33. Several Jews, who are in possession of more or less authentic documents, deal with the importation into Italy of motor vehicles, tires, spare parts, etc., which they introduce into Italy through the Italo-Austrian frontier controlled by French armed forces.

34. Owing to the difficulty of leaving Hungary, there are comparatively few Hungarian Jews in Italy at present. It is expected, however, that as soon as conditions will allow it, many Hungarian Jews will come to Italy, since, according to various reports, they have the same aims and plans as the Yugoslavs.

E. CS Center at Naples:

35. For many years there has been at Naples, a Jewish Committee, with headquarters at No. 33, Piazza della Borsa,

S E C R E T

apartment No. 179, and a branch office at No. 31, Via Cappella Vecchia. The Committee, whose purpose is the material and spiritual assistance to Jews, is under the direction of the following:

a) President: Lamberto FOA', fu Cesare and fu Ester FONTANELLA, born 3 February 1878 at Parma, living at No. 5, Via Vincenzo Cuoco, Naples, married, dry-goods dealer. His predecessor as President of the Committee was Comm. Arturo CARPI, fu Camillo and fu Enrichetta GENTILI, born 30 October 1874 at Bologna, living at No. 1, Via Partenope, Naples. CARPI went to northern Italy about three years ago, and has not come back to Naples yet.

b) Vice-President: Alberto LATTES di Cesare and Bellina VITALE, born 29 November 1888 at Naples, living at No. 6 Via Gian Domenico d'Auria, Naples, married, owner of a stationery shop.

c) Rabbi: Umberto COEN fu Flaminio and fu Amalia SAVENI, born 3 April 1878 at Ancona, living at No. 31, Via Cappella Vecchia, Naples, married to Margherita DI GIOVACCHINO. Dealer in medicinal products.

36. Following the Concordat with the Holy See (1929), the "Unione Comunita Israelitiche", with headquarters in Rome, decided that the Naples Committee should take charge of all the Jews (about 1000) living in southern Italy.

37. Since then, several thousand Jews from the Balkans have sought refuge in Basilicata, Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily. Moreover, soon after 8 September 1943, many Jews living in northern Italy escaped to Bari. Thus, by 1944, another Jewish community was established at Bari.

38. Soon after the arrival of the Allies at Naples (autumn 1943), the local Jewish Committee organized a cultural center for Jews, located at No. 46, Via Monte di Dio, 2nd floor, Naples. The center, with about one hundred members, is directed by:

a) Vittorio LATTES, di Cesare Alessandro and Vitale BELLINA, born 17 October 1904 at Naples, living at No. 21, Via Filippo Palizzi, Naples, married. He is a Doctor in Science.

b) Alessandro NATTEMBERG, di Paolo and Bevina KORNATFIELD, born 10 February 1904 at Istanbul, living at No. 41, Via Luigia Sanfelice, Naples, married. He is a commercial representative.

39. Since the end of 1943, Jews of many nationalities (Bulgarians, Albanians, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs, Rumanians, Hungarians, Poles, Palestinians, etc.), who have been interned in concentration

S E C R E T

camps in northern Italy, or had escaped from various centers, sought refuge at Naples. The number of refugees became even greater soon after the liberation of northern Italy and the cessation of hostilities in Europe. To meet the needs of these refugees, the Naples Jewish Committee, evidently with the help of the Allies, made arrangements for housing them. The Committee rented first an apartment at No. 46, Via Monte di Dio, 3rd floor, and later another apartment at No. 7, Via Raffaele De Cesare, 5th floor. At present there about one hundred Jewish refugees living at those two apartments.

40. Each refugee receives from the Naples headquarters of the UNRRA 5000 lire subsidy.

41. The refugees, either isolated or in small groups, are gradually being sent to Bari or Taranto, from where they are taken to Palestine or to their respective country of origin.

42. There is no evidence that Jews or arms are being embarked either at Naples or neighboring ports. Consequently, the passage of Jews through Naples should not be considered as clandestine traffic, but as a procedure tacitly approved by the Allies.

F. CS Center at Genoa:

43. There is no fresh information about the motor vessel "Mariu" which is being fitted in the Genoa harbor.

44. The skipper, TAGLIAFERRO, who had been arrested by the Allies at Bari, has been released and sent to Gallipoli (Lecca), on condition, however, that he should not leave his fishing vessel, Pietro, which is still sequestered.

45. The organization at Genoa entrusted with the repatriation of Jews operates under the supervision of the "Delaseme" (Delegazione Assistenza Emigrati Ebreici), with headquarters at No. 23, Via Venti Settembre. Chief of the "Delaseme" is Massimo TEGLIO. Another office for the assistance of Jews is located in Passo Assarotti, near the Genoa Synagogue.

46. There are also two collecting and assistance centers for isolated Jews, who arrive at Genoa, prior to their embarkation, namely:

a) The Evacuation Camp located at No. 71, Via Napoli, where about 60 Jewish Poles are interned. The camp chief is Dr. HACHIM;

b) A center located at No. 27, Via Oreste De Gasperi, where there are about 40 Jewish internees, also Polish.

SECRET

47. One Edith BUEHMANN, an employee at the Genoa UNRRA, has advised some foreign Jews who plan to go to Palestine, to seek assistance from the "Delaseme".

48. At Genoa there is a maternity hospital for Polish women. Most of them are from evacuee camps run by the Americans in the Bolzano-Trento zone. Jews and Jewesses from 18 to 32 years of age are being trained in these camps to meet the hardship of the clandestine voyages to Palestine.

49. A reliable source reports that at present there are in Italy about 30,000 Jews waiting for transportation to Palestine. Most of these Jews are Poles of anti-Communist leanings, who are terrorized at the thought of being sent to Poland.

50. It is believed that most of the foodstuffs needed for feeding these Jews consists of Allied rations supplied by the command of the Palestinian Division in Italy.